

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 27, 2004. Claims 1, 3 to 6, 8 to 11 and 13 to 21 remain in the application, with Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 18 and 20, the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,556,875 (Nagasaka), and Claims 5, 10 and 15 to 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nagasaka in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,594,696 (Walker). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns management of settings information for each of a plurality of image processing functions. In managing the settings information, a search is performed via a network to acquire information concerning each of various image processing devices connected to the network. Icons, each corresponding to each of a plurality of image processing function that is managed (e.g., copy, scan, fax), are then displayed on a display. When a user selects or designates an icon from among the displayed icons, at least a part of the acquired current settings information is displayed in proximity of the selected icon. For example, as shown in Figure 9, when a user selects icon 901 (corresponding to function 2 of Figure 6) with a cursor, the current settings information 903 is displayed next to the icon 901, where the displayed settings information includes an identifier 605 of the function and one or a plurality of image processing devices that implements the function (609, 611). As a result, a user can determine which of a plurality of devices can provide the selected image processing function mounted thereon merely by selecting the icon corresponding to the function.

With specific reference to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is a network terminal apparatus comprising management means for managing settings information for each of a plurality of image processing functions, wherein the settings information indicates an identifier of each image processing function and a plurality of image processing devices for implementing each image processing function, search means for acquiring, via a network, information concerning each of various image processing devices connected to the network, based on the settings information managed by the management means, icon display means for displaying icons each corresponding to each image processing function managed by the management means, and settings information display means for displaying at least a part of current settings information determined by the information acquired by the search means in regard to an image processing function corresponding to an icon selected by a user from among the icons displayed by the icon display means, in proximity of the selected icon.

Amended independent Claims 6 and 11 are method and storage medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

Amended independent Claims 16, 18 and 20 include features along the lines of Claims 1, 6 and 11 with one difference being that the current settings information is displayed when an icon is designated for a predetermined period of time. Thus, Claim 16 is a network terminal apparatus, comprising management means for managing settings information for each of a plurality of image processing functions, wherein the settings information indicates an identifier of each image processing function and a plurality of image processing devices for implementing each image processing function, search means for acquiring, via a network, information concerning each of various image processing devices connected to the network, based on the settings information managed by the

management means, icon display means for displaying icons each corresponding to each image processing function managed by the management means, designating means for allowing a user to designate, in order to select, a desired icon from among the icons displayed by the icon display means, and settings information display means for, when an icon is designated for a predetermined period of time, displaying at least a part of current settings information determined by the information acquired by the search means in regard to an image processing function corresponding to the designated icon.

Amended independent Claims 18 and 20 are method and storage medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 16.

The applied art, alone or in combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 18 and 20. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of acquiring, via network, information concerning each of various image processing devices connected to the network, based on settings information for each of a plurality of image processing functions, displaying icons each corresponding to each image processing function, and displaying, in proximity of a selected icon, at least a part of current settings information corresponding to the selected icon.

Nagasaka is merely seen to disclose, with regard to Figures 30 and 32, that a pop-up menu 470/490 is displayed in the vicinity of a printer icon 420 or copying machine icon 440. When a user selects the icon, accumulated results 131 as to which device, in conjunction with the printer 420, form a composite device, are displayed. The accumulated results 131 merely identify which devices have been used in conjunction with one another so as to form a composite device. However, the accumulated results 131 information is information that is merely accumulated in a device information memory element 124, but

is not seen to be settings information acquired via a network from a plurality of devices connected to the network. Thus, Nagasaka is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of acquiring, via network, information concerning each of various image processing devices connected to the network, based on settings information for each of a plurality of image processing functions, displaying icons each corresponding to each image processing function, and displaying, in proximity of a selected icon, at least a part of current settings information corresponding to the selected icon.

In view of the foregoing, amended independent Claims 1, 6 and 11 are not believed to be anticipated by Nagasaka.

Walker is merely seen to disclose obtaining management data from all managed devices on a network (see 100 of Fig. 6). When a network topology is formed and a user places a cursor near an icon of a device, information regarding a link between two devices is displayed. (see Fig. 4) Thus, while management data may be obtained from devices via network, and link information may be displayed, Walker is not seen to disclose or to suggest that settings information for each of a plurality of image processing functions is acquired, via network, from each of various image processing devices connected to the network, and displaying icons each corresponding to each image processing function, and displaying, in proximity of a selected icon, at least a part of current settings information corresponding to the selected icon.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of Claims 1, 3 to 6, 8 to 11 and 13 to 21 are believed to be allowable.

As a formal matter, Applicant again requests acknowledgment of the priority papers filed on June 29, 2000. In this regard, four Office Actions have now been received in the above-identified application with mailing dates of September 12, 2002,

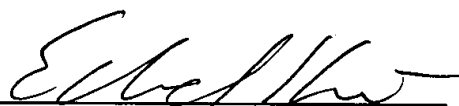
February 12, 2003, August 27, 2003, and February 27, 2004, respectively. However, to date, no acknowledgment has been made of receipt of the Claim for Priority dated June 28, 2000, along with a certified copy of Japanese Patent Application No. 11-103221.

Applicant made a formal request for acknowledgment of the Claim To Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in the Amendment dated November 26, 2003. However, the Examiner apparently overlooked Applicant's request when the February 27, 2004 Office Action was issued. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner formally acknowledge receipt of the Claim for Priority and the certified copy of Japanese Patent Application No. 11-103221.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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